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#### Man charged after alleged abduction

WRIGHT'S COVE A 30-yearold Dartmouth man faces attempted murder charges today after allegedly abducting his girlfriend Saturday evening and threatening her with a baseball bat

Police say the suspect. who cannot be named until his arraignment, took his 28-year-old girlfriend into the woods near Wright's Cove, where he allegedly attacked her while armed with a bat.

The woman escaped the assault and called the police, who arrested the man shortly after. She was not hospitalized for her minor iniuries. METRO HALIFAX

#### **Toronto rocked by** propane blasts

**EXPLOSIONS** One fireman is dead, one employee is missing and believed to be dead and thousands of people were evacuated early yesterday morning after a series of explosions at a propane plant in Toronto.

MORE COVERAGE ON PAGE 4

#### **Local** page 2

#### **Woman sues** for dog's life



**Paddy makes** it a double

# Special guest joins in on Lavigne love-in



Avril Lavigne performs in front of 6,000 adoring Metro Centre fans last night.

## Avril's husband surprises crowd for final number

**DEAN LISK** dean.lisk@metronews.ca

It was the best part of the concert, and it happened at the very end. For her encore, Avril Lavigne brought a special guest on stage — her husband, Deryck Whibley. "Well, well, well. Ladies

and gentlemen, I came here tonight to perform the Canadian national anthem," said the Sum 41 singer before breaking into his group's hit song, In Too

Deep. Wearing Wearing skinny black jeans, Whib-tonight to perform rocked the Canadian out out on his guitar while national anthem." wife Deryck Whibley danced

around and sang the chorus for the more than 6,000 at the Halifax Metro Centre last

The performance was part of Lavigne's Best Damn Tour, which has seen the 23-year-old travel around the world to support her third studio album, The Best Damn Thing.

"Are you guys ready to have a good time with us tonight? Let me hear you say hell ya," the heavily mascara-eyed singer said before breaking into her song, I Can Do Better.

Maybe it was because of the length of this tour

she's spent a year and a half promoting this album - or just technical difficulties, but the show could have been better.

Lavigne's voice sounded pitchy and rough during some numbers, while during others she delivered the vocal goods — some-times it was both in the same song.

There were musical lulls as Lavigne left the stage and then reappeared, and as instruments were being changed. A piano was rolled out when Lavigne

performed When You're Gone, and later in the concert a drum kit was brought out her to play. All this did-

n't seem to matter to most of her audience, largely made up of glow stick waving teens, tweens and their parents. Their Lavigne love-in happened before she was even on the stage. Many bounced in their seats in a sugar rush of excitement.

Opening for Lavigne last night was Mississauga's illScarlet. The Juno nominated band offered one of the more surreal moments of the evening. As it sang Mary Jane — about marijuana use — the young audience lit up their glow sticks and waved to the



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#### Library agenda on tap for council tomorrow

After running out of time for it last week, discussion of a new central library will be back on the council agenda tomorrow. Council is figuring out how to replace the deteriorating Spring Garden Road branch.. METRO HALIFAX

# Local

#### Beaches shutdown

Fecal coliform bacteria levels at Russell Lake in Dartmouth scored higher than provincial and federal standards, so the HRM shut it down on the weekend. The municipality tests supervised beaches weekly, but unsupervised beaches like Russell Lake are monitored on a 'seasonal basis only.'

METRO HALIFAX

### **Projector Rentals** CENTURY daily from Just \$79

## NDP lobbies for time to review school changes

LINDSAY JONES lindsay.jones@metronews.ca

**DEADLINE** The public should have more than just three weeks in the dog days of summer to comment on proposed changes to school board governance, says the NDP.

NDP education critic Percy Paris is demanding Edu-

cation Minister Karen Casey extend the dead"People are still in line for public vacation mode; input on her they're at the proposed changes to the cottage, they're Education Act, travelling. People's especially cause her plan priorities are just in includes scrap other places." school board Percy Paris

byelections. 'It just seems

like an inappropriate time to do consultation," Paris said.

"People are still in vacation mode; they're at the cottage, they're travelling. People's priorities are just in other places.'

The Education Department announced legisla31 with an Aug. 22 deadline to receive public input.

Paris says the deadline should be extended to late

September or October. But an Education Department spokesman says that's just not possible.

Dan Harrison said the "compressed consultation" is necessary so that people running for

the school board will be aware of the new rules fore coming election nominations close on Sept. 9. "We feel

it's only fair that they get the opportunity to see what the rules governing the school board meetings would be like," Harrison said.

"In a perfect world we probably would've liked to have five, six weeks of consultation. We've given as much as we can.

# Fighting to save her dog

Woman suing city over order to euthanize family pet

LINDSAY JONES lindsay.jones@metronews.ca

#### An East Chezzetcook woman is suing the city to try and keep her dog alive.

Francesca Rogier says the city seized her dog Brindi on July 24 and ordered her to be euthanized.

Rogier says Brindi, a fiveyear-old female mixed breed, has attacked neighbourhood dogs on three occasions, but has never bitten a person and is normally calm and obedient.

"I think it's a very drastic measure to punish a dog that hasn't bitten a human or seriously hurt another dog," Rogier said.

She says the city issued a muzzle order in May after Brindi attacked two dogs in separate incidents. In one case, Rogier says a dog suffered puncture wounds and she voluntarily paid its

Brindi was eventually seized four days after she slipped out of her owner's control without the muzzle and acted aggressively toward two dogs.

Rogier's statement of claim, filed in Supreme Court on Wednesday, says



Francesca Rogier has filed a court injunction against the city to keep her dog Brindi from being euthanized. Brindi, who Rogier adopted from a shelter a year ago, was seized by the city on July 24 after she attacked other dogs on three separate occasions

she disagrees with the facts underlying the city's actions: "The Plaintiff alleges that HRM has interpreted dominant behaviour as dangerous behav-

Rogier says suing is a last resort.

She says she's offered to put up a fence, pay a fine, boarding costs and a trainer, but the city won't

#### online petition

Rogier started a blog (Freebrindi.blogspot.com) and launched an online petition, which has about 130 signatures in support of Brindi. A Calgary dog trainer has also launched the Facebook group, Save Brindi. So far, it has 129 members.

"I think I should be the one punished," Rogier said. "I don't think (Brindi) should have to lose her life if I made mistakes.

Halifax Regional Municipality spokeswoman Deborah Story says she can't speak about the case because it's before the courts.

Under the city's bylaw A-300, if a dog attacks a person or another animal, an animal control officer may issue a muzzle order; microchip the dog; classify the dog as dangerous in a municipal registry; or destroy the dog without permitting the owner to claim

Story said the dog owner receives a letter saying they have 14 days to get legal advice and file a court injunction.

"The dog would not be euthanized until the courts make a decision."

## Tomorrow's Metro



your skin, experts say,



View a photo gallery and clips of the massive explosion and fire in Toronto Watch video reports on memorials for a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan and the victim of the Grevhound bus killing

#### Lotteries

Friday, Aug. 8 Lotto Super 7 8, 10, 16, 24, 37, 41 & 43. Bonus 7. Lotto 6/49 1, 34, 37, 39, 40 & 42. Bonus 11.



# Another attempt for Alexander

JON TATTRIE for Metro Halifax



In July, her marathon swim from Nova Scotia to New Brunswick to P.E.I. was stopped after 13.5 hours because of persistent vomiting. Alexander blamed it on the 60-plus jellyfish stings she suf-fered, along with ingesting too much salt water, inhaling boat fumes and hypothermia-induced shiver-

ing.
"We'll face fewer jellies,
water, and have warmer water, but we'll also have a minefield of lobster-trap buoys to avoid," she said on her blog. "I've never (dodged



Jen Alexander is swimming from Nova Scotia to New Brunswick to P.E.I. today, a 22-hour marathon

buoys) before, so I have no idea how well we'll fare.

Alexander, 33, is doing the epic 32-kilometre trek to raise awareness of type 1 ("juvenile") diabetes, which she has had for 20 years. She'll pause every 30 minutes to tread water while she tests her blood sugar and manage her insulin levels

## A trip down memory lane

GRAHAM NORTH For Metro Halifax

**SCHOOL** Hundreds gathered at the former site of one of Halifax's last all-black schools this weekend to reunite and celebrate the one-room schoolhouse.

A potluck dinner and late-night dance highlighted a packed event list at a three-day reunion for the Upper Hammonds Plains School, a segregated school that closed in 1965.

"It was a step back in time," said Gina Jones-Wilson, president of the reunion committee. "Some of the students haven't seen each other since the school closed."

Former students, teachers and community pas-tors united at the old school.

It has since been transformed into the Upper Hammonds Plains Community Centre for the small community of about 600 people.

Jones-Wilson helped orchestrate meet-and-greets, barbeques, a ladies' tea, a horseshoe tournament and a "full-house" dance that rocked until 1 a.m. Sunday

morning.
"Oh, Lord have mercy, we had quite a few swings," said Linda Anderson, a 61-year-old former student at the school. "It was all the oldies but goodies from the sixties right on down."

Anderson shared her nostalgia with former classmates that travelled from as far as Arizona to reconnect with friends and look at pictures from their childhood.

"We shared, we talked, we ate, we drank... It was a memory we'll never forget."

A community centre was opened — and celebrated — on Caledonia Road in Dartmouth this weekend. The \$5.5-million, environmentally-friendly building will also house the Boys and Girls club and a police community response office. METRO HALIFAX







Juel Maerz-McCallum enters the waters at Lawrencetown beach.

#### **News** in brief

ROBBERY Police are looking for a man who threatened the staff at Domino's Pizza on Quinpool Road with a "medical-type" syringe early Sunday and took off with an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspect is a six-foot-two white male with a slim build and a aoatee. METRO HALIFAX

**ROBBERY** A thief got away with an undetermined amount of cash Saturday after robbing the Ultramar at 280 Lacewood Dr. The suspect handed the clerk a note indicating that it was a robbery, and the clerk complied. The thief is a skinny six-foot white male in his mid-METRO HALIFAX

ASSAULT A 27-year-old man will appear in court Friday after allegedly striking a man in the face and stealing cash out of his pockets. The incident occured near Creighton and North streets. The man will also face drug-possession charges after police found crack cocaine on him. METRO HALIFAX

#### Cops seek info on pepper-spraying

SAULT Witnesses weren't talking to police after three men invaded a Herring Cove apartment Saturday and pepper-sprayed the occupants. Officers said this was not a random act and that the men knew each other. METRO HALIFAX

### **She-surfers** celebrated at One Life

Hundreds watch

JON TATTRIE For Metro Halifax



The waves were low but spirits were high yesterday as dozens of surfers took to the ocean for the second annual One Life Women's Surf Championship.

The competition, put on at Lawrencetown beach by One Life Surf School and Spa to showcase local female talent, drew hundreds of spectators. The heavy storm clouds held off and allowed competitors to take turns in the 15-minute heats.

Wendy Flinn's daughter Katie was in the waves. The 22-year-old was trying Nova Scotian waters for the first time after spending the last two years surfing in Costa Rica.

I'm excited for her," Wendy said as her daughter paddled out, explaining the breaks of the waves with an expert's eye. Wendy explained that she had gone on a surf camp in Costa Rica.

'I was the granny of the group," she joked.

After a solid performance, Katie exited the water grinning.
"This is my first time

competing," she said, noting it compared well with her experiences in tropical paradise.

'The beach break is completely different (here). It's a lot slower wave, and the temperature is extremely different, but it's great.

You can't beat it." Juel Maerz-McCallum. co-owner of One Life Surf, said the event is a chance for women and girls to get used to competition in a friendly atmosphere.

The water's so warm, and the energy's awe some," she said after her own heat.

And the waves? There are waves, so that's awesome," she said. "They're not epic."



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Khadr's lawyers sue Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Lawyers for Omar Khadr, the Canadian man imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay have filed a lawsuit against Prime Minister Stephen Harper in a bid to force him to intercede with Washington on the inmate's behalf. Harper has so far refused to ask the United States to repatriate Khadr. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# cant factor of influencing snake populations." Adam Martinson, a University of Calgary student working on a Masters degree, speaking about his study of snake deaths.

"Road mortality is a signifi-

Church backs out of protest

Martinson is at Dinosaur Provincial Park in Alberta, trying to discover why snakes, in increasing frequency, are being compelled to slither on to the province's roadways. REUTERS

## 'Sounded like an atomic bomb'

Massive propane explosion rocks Toronto neighbourhood

As the flames died down from yesterday's massive series of explosions at a Toronto propane plant, they left behind a cloud of outrage.

Thousands of people, forced to flee their homes, are demanding answers from the city as to why Sunrise Propane Industrial Gases was allowed three years ago to build a distribution plant in a long-established residential area in Toronto

A 25-year veteran of the fire department, Bob Leek, died fighting the conflagration. A Sunrise employee was missing and believed also to have died.

He reportedly was last seen heading toward the

But the neighbourhood got off very lucky, said



A fire started in a propane storage area in the Wilson and Keele area of Toronto on Sunday morning. Area residents were awoken by a blast that shook houses and broke windows blocks away.

Toronto Fire Division Commander Bob O'Hallarn, though the pre-dawn blast

shattered windows over a wide area and flying debris damaged buildings hundreds of metres away.

"It sounded like an atomic bomb, said Fernando Caschera, 56. "My father wakes up and he goes, 'What are you making so much noise for?"

The owner of Sunrise was said to be out of the country.

The fire continued to burn last night but was declared "under control."

Several people described the panic of being roused from their sleep by a series of rolling explosions, their homes brightly lit by orange fireballs soaring into the sky.

"I thought it was a terrorist attack," said Carlos Montova.

Others feared an earthquake or a jetliner crashing down on them.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### JEFF CUMMINGS Metro Canada

MURDER A controversial U.S. church group that had planned a protest outside of a funeral for a slain car-nival worker Saturday backed out for fear of being arrested, said one member yesterday.

Shirley Phelps-Roper, a member of the Kansasbased Westboro Baptist Church, says six youths and an adult did make it through the border to pick-

et outside of Tim McLean's funeral in Winnipeg, but the church changed its mind at the last minute because "laws in Canada do not protect their right to protest."

The group has angered Canadians from coast-tocoast by planning to stage a protest at McLean's funeral who claims the 22vear-old man, beheaded on year-old man, beneaded on a Greyhound bus, "de-served his fate" since he lived an "immoral and god-less life like other Canadi-

#### **News** in brief

AFGHANISTAN An investigation is under way as it's believed Canadian soldier, Master Cpl. Josh Roberts may have been killed accidentally by a passing convoy of private security guards over the weekend.

**CANADIAN DETAINED Five Ti**bet activists including 24-yearold Montrealer Chris Schwartz have been detained after they used fake blood to stage a dramatic protest in Tiananmen Square yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Former U.S. Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards admitted Friday that he had an extramarital affair in 2006 with a woman who produced videos for his campaign, but said he was not the father of her infant daughter. Edwards' wife Elizabeth said she supports him as the family works through the healing process. REVETES

# World/Business

# Georgia pulls back, Business offers peace talks

Russian troops take South Ossetia capital

Georgia offered Russia a ceasefire and peace talks yesterday after pulling troops back from rebel South Ossetia's capital, and mediators began a mission to end the internationally condemned fighting.

Some fighting gripped parts of the Caucaregion, however, and Russia demanded an unconditional Georgian with-

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner arrived in Thilisi at the head of an international team of mediators, the first top level diplomatic mission to fly to the region in an attempt to stem the bloodshed. It was due to move on to Moscow

After meeting Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, Kouchner said a "controlled withdrawal of the troops" was his main

priority.

The United States main-



A Georgian woman holding her baby cries at her damaged home in Gori yesterday. Russia has started an operation to storm the Georgian-controlled Kodori gorge in Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia, the Georgian Interior Ministry said yesterday.

tained its strong criticism of Russia, condemning its "disproportionate and dangerous" military action.

Russian troops and tanks took control of Tskhinvali the region's devastated capital, early yesterday after a three-day battle. Moscow said 2,000 civilians were killed and thousands made homeless in a "humanitarian catastrophe.'

#### Karzai urges action in **Pakistan**

TALIBAN Afghan President Hamid Karzai yesterday urged the world to target the Taliban in Pakistan, adding that operations by foreign troops in his country had only led to civilian deaths among Afghans and not success in the war.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are both U.S. allies, but ties between the two have for decades been dogged by a border dispute. Recently, Kabul openly accused Pakistan of involvement in violence in Afghanistan, where the Taliban and al-Oaida militants routinely attack foreign and Afghan

## Bombers strike West China again, 11 dead

SEPARATISTS Suspected Muslim separatists and suicide bombers launched a dozen attacks in west China yesterday, killing 11 people in the blasts and a subsequent shootout with police in renewed violence two days into the Olympics.

It was the second attack in restive Xinjiang in a week after 16 police were killed at a border post on Monday.

China says militants seeking an independent "East Turkestan" homeland for Muslim Uighurs in the Xiniiang region are among the top threats to Olympics, Beijing

#### **Police response**

• Police shot dead eight assailants, while another two blew themselves up. A security guard also died in the

which began on Friday. Homemade grenade attacks shook Kuqa, a town in the south of Xinjiang more than 3,000 km from Beijing, as 15 men attacked supermarkets, hotels and government offices in the early hours of vesterday, the official Xinhua news agency said.

## **News** in brief

VIETNAM About 80 people have been killed and dozens remain missing in north Vietnam as heavy rains brought by tropical storm Kammuri triggered landslides and floods. The country's weather officials warned of more flash floods and landslides yesterday in what has been described as the biggest natural disaster to hit Vietnam this year.

**BOLIVIA** Bolivian President Evo Morales easily won a recall vote yesterday and vowed to push on with socialist reforms that his rightist opponents in

South America's poorest country are trying to block. The recall pitted Morales against governors who have pushed for autonomy for their resource-rich provinces and are furious that he has cut their share of windfall natural gas revenues.

#### **Economists label** July job report as 'gruesome'

**ECONOMY** Statistics Canada said an unexpected 55,200 jobs were lost in Canada last month, providing more evidence of a continued ecoslowdown prompting economists to label the figures everything from "grisly" to "gruesome." Most of the losses,

48,000, were in part-time work and were centred in manufacturing, business, building and other support services and educational services, the government agency reported Friday.

Quebec, Ontario. Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island all took a hit on the job loss front.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

#### **Business** in brief

CANADA Hybrid auto sales jumped by more than 66 per cent to almost 12,000 in the first

six months from the same period in 2007, manufacturers' figures show. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

#### **METRO** Halifax

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Advertising: 902-421-5824 adinfohalifax@metronews.ca Editorial: metrohalifaxinfo@metronews.ca

Distribution inquiries: halifax distribution@metronews.ca metro\_inquiries@metronews.ca halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Publisher, Grea Lutes Managing Editor, Rachel Boomer rachel.boomer@metronews.ca Marketing Manager, Christina Edwards Sales Manager, Dianne Curran Distribution Manager, Irma Moore

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Shine a light on fluorescent bulbs

 $If 1 million people changed four incandescent light bulbs each to compact fluorescent light bulbs, 900,000 \ tons of greenhouse gases$ would be eliminated, according to The Live Earth: Global Warming Survival Handbook by David de Rothschild. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Canada's water use averages out to 1,600 cubic metres of water per capita each year. This is double the amount used in France per person, nearly four times the water use of the average Swede and more than eight times that of the average Dane, according to Greeniology: How To Live Well, Be Green And Make A Difference by Tanya Ha. METRO NEWS SERVICES

#### Water, water everywhere

# Positive signs for North Air quality index hits

Science Matters

6



Canadian politicians finally paying serious attention to the environment?

Recent events and announcements give us reason for optimism.

Ontario government's recent commitment to protect 50 per cent of its intact boreal forest offers further hope that governments are getting serious

about protecting the planet.

On Ĵuly 14, Ŏntario Premier Dalton McGuinty committed to preserve 225,000 square kilometres of northern boreal forest under the province's Far North Planning Initiative.

It's a significant commitment, and it's something more than 1,500 of the world's scientists had asked for, including us.

The boreal forest stretches across the northern part of Canada, touching almost every province and territory and covering 35 per cent of the country's total land mass. It represents about one third of the world's circumpolar boreal system and one quarter of all intact forests remaining on the planet.

The region supports three

"The Ontario government's recent commitment to protect 50 per cent of its intact boreal forest offers further hope that governments are getting serious about protecting the planet."

billion migratory songbirds and more than 200 species of animals, including dozens of threatened or endangered species such as woodland caribou, grizzly and polar bears, wolverine, lynx, and white pelican.

The announcement is significant not just in terms of conservation but also because it marks the first time a government in Canada has explicitly recognized the role nature conservation must play in combating global warming.

The boreal's forests and peatlands absorb and store massive amounts of carbon, making them a hedge against global warming caused by emissions from human activity.

Scientists estimate that Ontario's northern boreal alone absorbs 12.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year.
With this announcement,

Ontario has taken an important and courageous step, one that we hope other provinces will follow. For ex-

ample, Quebec has protected less than five per cent of its own boreal forest, and although it has plans to increase this, it has yet to make a commitment as visionary as Ontario's.

The recent attention governments have been paying to the environment are positive signs. But successful conservation efforts can't be limited to aspirational goals announced at news conferences. We all have a responsibility to make sure governments live up to their commitments.

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzu-

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

# Internet

POLLUTION Each year, an estimated 6,000 Canadians die prematurely as a result of air pollution. Even more are hospitalized for respiratory or cardiovascular illnesses or suffer minor effects, such as coughing.

In order to minimize their exposure to noxious pollutants, and take steps to reduce emissions from their own activities, Canadians need to know when the quality of the air they breathe poses a risk to their health.

The new Air Ouality Health Index, found at www.airhealth.ca, is the first index of its kind to take into account how the level of exposure to multiple pollutants can affect vour health.

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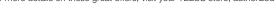
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·BEST

Cleveland Browns wide receiver Braylon Edwards spent Saturday night in the hospital after receiving stitches in his right foot. Browns head coach Romeo Crennel said Edwards was expected to be released yesterday, and had no timetable for the player's return. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Sports



#### O-Dog out for the season

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Paddy makes it a double

Harrington claims PGA Championship after winning British Open last month

Irishman Padraig Harrington putted superbly over the closing stretch to seal his second consecutive major title with a two-shot victory at the PGA

Championship yesterday.

One month after successfully defending his British Open crown at Royal Birkdale, Harrington held off the challenge of playing partner Sergio Garcia and American Ben Curtis with a four-under-par 66 at Oakland Hills Country Club.

Irishman edged ahead by sinking a 10-foot birdie putt at the par-three 17th before ramming in a 15-footer to save par at the last for a three-under total of 277.

"I knew that I had the op portunity to get the putt in

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game with

instant updates.

first," Harrington told reporters of his birdie on the 17th green where Spaniard Garcia struck his tee shot to four feet.

"That was important. I knew if I holed it, I probably would win the PGA. If I missed, Sergio would probably win the PGA. So it was down to that and I hit a lovely putt. I read it exactly how I wanted it and it did exactly what I expected."

Harrington became the first European to win the tournament in 78 years, since Scottish-born Tommy Armour won in 1930.

He also became the fourth player after Walter Hagen, Nick Price and Tiger Woods to win the British Open and PGA Championship back-to-REUTERS



Padraig Harrington of Ireland kisses the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the 90th PGA Championship at the Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Township, Mich., yesterday.

## Lee helps Tribe sweep away Jays

#### **INDIANS 4 BLUE JAYS 0**

MLB Cliff Lee pitched eight shutout innings and Shin-Soo Choo had three doubles and a run scored as the Cleveland Indians defeated the Toronto Blue Jays, 4-0, completing a three-game sweep at Rogers Centre yesterday.

Grady Sizemore finished with two hits, an RBI, and a run scored, while David Dellucci added a run-scoring double for the Indians, who have won four of their last six games.

Lee (16-2) allowed eight hits and struck out one without issuing a walk. The veteran left-hander became the first 16-game winner in the America League, and pitched 17 straight scoreless innings against the Blue Jays.

"I was able to throw strikes, working ahead in the count and trying to stay away from 2-0 and 3-1 counts," Lee said. "For the most part I was able to do that. They put the ball in play and we made some good defensive plays."

Canadian Scott mond (0-2) suffered the loss after working five innings. The rookie right-hander, making his third career start, gave up three runs on nine hits, while striking out five and not allowing a walk

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Cleveland's Cliff Lee shut down Toronto's offence yesterday, as the Indians heat the Blue Javs 4-0 to complete a three-game

#### **Del Potro** tops Roddick in L.A. finals

TENNIS Argentine teenager Juan Martin Del Potro upset top seed Andy Roddick 6-1, 7-6 yesterday to win the ATP event in Los Angeles and

claim his third successive title.

In his first final on hard courts Del Potro,

produced a

brilliant and mature performance. rocketing winners past the American for his 14th con-

secutive victory. "I played a very good week and today I played unbelievable," Del Potro told reporters.

"I don't think Roddick was 100 percent but I played unbelievable to win. I beat (Tommy) Robredo last year but to beat Roddick in the United States, I think is the best win of my career.

REUTERS

#### Rays' Crawford put on 15-day DL

MLB The Tampa Bay Rays placed outfielder Carl Crawford on the 15-day disabled list yesterday with a subluxation of his right middle finger tendon. Crawford is batting .273 with eight homers, 57 RBI and 10 triples this season.

In addition, the Rays activated outfielder Rocco Baldelli from the 60-day

METRO NEWS SERVICES

#### SCOREBOARD

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE W L PCT GB Tampa Bay 71 46 .607 — Boston 67 51 .568 4½ N.Y. Yankees 63 55 .534 8½ 59 59 .500 12½ 56 60 .483 14½ Toronto Baltimore CENTRAL DIVISION

WEST DIVISION WEST DIVISION

W L PCT GB

5 74 43 .632 —
61 58 .513 14

54 63 .462 20
45 73 .381 29½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION L.A. Angels

Philadelphia 64 53 547 GB

N.Y. Mets 62 55 530 2

Florida 62 56 525 2½

Atlanta 55 63 .466 9½

Washington 44 74 .373 20½

CENTRAL DIVISION W L PCT Chicago Cubs 71 47 .602 PCT GB Milwaukee St. Louis Houston Pittsburgh 67 51 .568 4 65 55 .542 7 58 59 .496 12½ 53 64 .453 17½ Cincinnati 52 67 .437 19½ WEST DIVISION

AMERICAN LEAGUE Chicago White Sox 6 Boston 5

Cleveland 4 Toronto 0 Detroit 6 Oakland 1 Kansas City 5 Minnesota 4 (12 ings) L.A. Angels 4 N.Y. Yankees 3 Tampa Bay 11 Seattle 3 Texas 15 Baltimore 7 NATIONAL LEAGUE Florida 8 N.Y. Mets 2

Florida 8 N.Y. Mets 2 Houston 13 Cincinnati 4 Philadelphia 6 Pittsburgh 3 Milwaukee 5 Washington 4 (13 ings) San Diego 16 Colorado 7 San Francisco 5 L.A. Dodgers 4 Arizona 6 Atlanta 1 St. Louis 12 Chicago Cubs 3 TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE AMERICAN LEAGUE
Toronto at Detroit, 8:05
Baltimore at Cleveland, 8:05
N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 9:10
Boston at Chicago White Sox, 9:11
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Mets, 2:10
Wichinater at Milwayles, 2:05 Washington at Milwaukee, 3:05

St. Louis at Florida, 8:10 San Francisco at Houston, 9:05 Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 11:10

### Montrea Toronto Hamilton Winnipeg WEST DIVISION Saskatchewan ewan 6 1 0 0n 4 3 0 4 3 0 4 3 0 WEEK 7 FRIDAY'S RESULTS

B.C. 40 Edmonton 34 Montreal 39 Winnipeg 11
THURSDAY'S RESULTS Calgary 30 Saskatchewa Hamilton 45 Toronto 21

#### **Sports** in brief

NFL Two days after losing backup quarterback Charlie Batch to a broken right collarbone in the team's first preseason game, the Pittsburgh Steelers signed quarterback Byron Leftwich to a contract vesterday.

NFL Pro Bowl guard Shawn Andrews arrived at Eagles training camp yesterday, ending his depression-related absence.

MLB The Chicago White Sox acquired pitcher Horacio Ramirez from the Kansas City Royals in exchange for minor-league outfielder Paulo Orlando late Saturday night. The trade came after an injury to pitcher Jose Contr-METRO NEWS SERVICES eras.

#### TELUS the future is friendly®



#### Olympics

Shubenacadie's Tracy Cameron and partner Melanie Kok of St. Catherines, Ont., advanced to the semifinals in women's lightweight doubles rowing yesterday. The Canadians finished second in their heat of five, behind Germany with a time of 6:54.07 METRO HALIFAX



sports

9

#### **Sports** in brief

HOCKEY The Dalhousie Tigers will bring in former first-round NHL draft pick and Calder Cup winner Scott Allison as an assistant coach for the men's hockey team this season. Allison had a long playing career, including stints in the WHL, AHL, IHL and seven seasons overseas. In 1990 the Edmonton Oilers drafted him 17th overall.

Mockey Former Halifax
Mooseheads defenceman Guillaume Monast is getting a freeagent tryout with the Dallas
Stars. Monast, who spent the
past season and a half in Halifax, will be a member of the
Stars' roster at an annual NHL
prospect tournament in
Traverse City, Mich. Next

GOLF Cliff Lowery Jr. shot a 6over 78 over the weekend to win the NSGA Senior men's championship at River Hills Golf and Country Club. Lowery finished off his first provincial title by four strokes over twotime winner Graham MacIntyre.

RACING Travis Benjamin of Maine won the Atlantic CAT 250 Saturday at Scotia Speedworld. It is the first career Pro All Stars Series win for Benjamin, who lead for the final 45 laps in front of close to 4,000 fans. METRO HALIFAX

# Szoke closes in on title

Weekend victory sets up showdown with rival McBain

PAUL McLEOD paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

It was a weekend of broken bones, big leads and dramatic finishes at the Parts Canada Superbike series at Atlantic Motorsport Park.

Jordan Szoke managed to clinch the championship in the Pro 600 division, but will have to fight off second place Clint McBain later this month to hold on for his third straight Superbike title.

Szoke dramatically edged out McBain on Saturday, passing the challenger in the final lap of the 22-lap race and finishing in first by just .055 seconds. But McBain struck back yesterday, opening up a huge lead in the first lap and never giving it up.

"Clint's had a great setup all weekend. I knew he was going to be tough to beat. But we were just out there racing for the championship, trying not to do anything stupid." said



Kevin Szoke edges ahead of Clint McBain in the final lap of Saturday's Parts Canada Superbike race. McBain won yesterday but still trails Szoke for the overall points lead.

Szoke, who is tied for the all-time wins record.

Szoke now sits 42 points ahead of McBain heading into the final race of the series Aug. 28-31 in Shannonville, Ont. Even if McBain wins, Szoke would just have to finish in the top 12 to claim the title.

"I've got to lead the most laps, I've got to win the race, and even then I'm still hoping. He's in the drivers seat still," said McBain

Kevin Lacombe came into the weekend in second place and had a dominant history at the AMP track in Shubenacadie. But La-

combe crashed his bike in Saturday's Pro 600 race and broke his wrist. In pain and unable to even grab a water bottle, Lacombe still competed in both Superbike races, finishing 10th and seventh, good enough to keep him in third place overall.

## Jung places 12th on national stage

GOLF Irene Jung finished in a four-way tie for 12th after shooting 78 in the final round of the Royale Cana-

dian Junior Girls Championship in Winnipeg. The 15-

The 15year-old Jung finished 11 strokes back of win

strokes back of win- Jung nder Soo Bin Kim of Port Coquitlam, B.C.

The Nova Scotia girls team finished sixth overall.

## Rough weekend for N.S. teams

BASEBALL Ontario edged out Quebec 2-1 in the finals of the Baseball Canada Midget Championships played yesterday in Halifax.

British Columbia took out Manitoba by a score of 12-0 for the bronze. Both of Nova Scotia's teams failed to qualify for the playoffs with the Cole Harbour Cardinals finishing with a record of 1-4.

The Halifax Mets were winless in five games.

METRO HALIFAX



**10** sports

Fall River's David Kikuchi and the rest of Canada's men's Olympic gymnastic team were narrowly cut from advancing to the gymnastics floor final Saturday. METRO HALIFAX

# Beijing Cames

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

#### **Sports** in brief

TENNIS Top seed Ana Ivanovic of Serbia withdrew from the Olympic tennis event yesterday with an injury to her right thumb. The French Open champion was due to take on Mariya Koryttseva of Ukraine in the first round but said vesterday she would go home to try to recover in time for the U.S. Open.

**ATHLETICS** Greek sprinter Katerina Thanou has been barred from competing in Beijing because of her role in a doping scandal four years ago, the International Olympic Committee said yesterday. Thanou qualified for Beijing but needed IOC approval to compete.

**BADMINTON** Vancouver's Anna Rice beat Jeannine Cicognini of Switzerland yesterday to reach the round of 16.

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#### Medal count Rank Nation Total 6 2 0 #1 China #3 S.Korea 3 2 0 #4 Italy #5 Russia 0 3 1 4 #6 Japan #7 France N.Korea 0 1 2 #8 #9 Czech Rep. 2 0 0 Australia 1 0 1 #10 Holland 1 0 1 #12 Spain #13 Cuba 0 1 1 2 #14 Britain 1 0 0 Romania 1 0 0 Thailand 1 0 0 #17 Austria 0 1 0 #18 Hungary 0 1 0 #19 Sweden 0 1 0 1 Turkey Vietnam 0 1 0 #22 Zimbabwe 0 1 0 #33 Canada 0 0 0

(Count at the end of Day 2)

# Records fall in the water

Phelps claims second gold in Beijing as team sets new world standard

Michael Phelps dodged a bullet to collect his second gold medal and stay on course for a possible eight on an incredible recordbreaking day at the Water Cube early this morning at the Beijing Olympics.

Phelps joined his American teammates Garret Weber-Gale, Cullen Jones and Jason Lezak to smash the 4x100 metre freestyle relay after a breathtaking struggle with France that threatened to sink his chances of breaking Mark Spitz's record of seven golds at a single Olympics.

France looked to have the gold in the bag when they led by half a body length with one lap to go but Jason Lezak over-hauled Alain Bernard on the last stroke to win the gold in three minutes 08.24 seconds and carve nearly four seconds off the previous record, that was

set yesterday.
Eamon Sullivan also claimed the individual world record in the same race when he led the Australian team off in 47.24, wiping 0.26 off Bernard's record The Australians finished third, while Canada - led by Brent Hayden of Mission, B.C., who with-drew from the 200-metre freestyle semifinals to save his strength for the relay placed sixth.

Japan's Kosuke Kitajima broke the world record to win the men's 100 breaststroke gold while Zimbab-



Kosuke Kitajima of Japan celebrates winning the gold medal in the men's 100-metre breaststroke final early this morning with a world record time at the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing Games.

we's Kirsty Coventry broke Natalie Coughlin's world record in the semi-finals of the 100 backstroke.

Australia's women grabbed their second gold in the pool when Libby Trickett won the 100 butterfly final while Rebecca Adlington scored a surprise win in the 400 metres freestyle to provide Britain with their first female swimming medallist in nearly half a century.

Adlington stormed home on the last lap to overhaul American Katie Hoff and win the gold in 4:03.22 seconds.

Hoff held on to take the silver in 4:03.29 while Joanne Jackson provided Britain with a second medal when she finished third in 4:03.52.

World record holder Federica Pellegrini faded to finish fifth while defending champion Laure Manaudou was eighth.

Today's early action in the pool wasn't very good for Canada's swimmers.

Brian Johns of Richmond, B.C., finished seventh in the men's 400 metre medley final, while Colin Russell of Oshawa, Ont., and Ryan Cochrane of Victoria failed to reach the fi-

Annamay Pierse of Edmonton failed to qualify for the finals in the women's 100 metre breaststroke, as did Jillian Tyler of Calgary and Julia Wilkinson of Stratford,

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#### **Business Development Coordinator**

Transcontinental is Canada's fastest growing Printing/Media Company. We offer an excellent remuneration package of salary, incentives and benefits. Transcontinental Printing in Dartmouth is seeking a motivated and enthusiastic candidate to join a highly effective team where each member will apply good communication, leadership, inter-personal and solid technical skills. We are currently seeking a Business Development Coordinator to join our team and establish a successful career path within our Sales department. The Business Development Coordinator contributes to Transcontinental's success by identifying new clients, establishing positive relationships with prospects and securing new business.

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- Maximize positive and strategic relations with customers by
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- the unit, group and sector.

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  Collaborate with sales and marketing teams to help complete
- designated tasks

#### Qualifications and Competencies:

- Ability to "cold call" is essential
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- with fellow team members
- Demonstrate exceptional interpersonal skills and customer empathy

#### University degree or equivalent experience Strong desire to succeed in a sales profession

Individuals interested in applying for this position are requested to send their résumé prior to August 21, 2008 to the attention of Brenda Yorke by e-mail (yorkeb@transcontinental.ca) or by fax (902-468-9751).

se note that only selected candidates will be contacted for an interview. Your application will be treated with confidentiality and within equal opportunity principles

## Bush treated to U.S. razzle-dazzle

BASKETBALL The millionaire stars of the U.S. basketball team swept past hosts China yesterday in the showcase match-up of the Olympics, watched by tens of millions on Chinese TV and cheered on by U.S. President George W. Bush.

Talismanic giant Yao Ming, flag carrier for China at the opening ceremony, could not protect his colleagues from the speed and power of the NBA professionals.

Ming, who plays with the Houston Rockets, scored 13 points in the 101-70 loss to the U.S. in what was billed as the most watched basketball game in history. Bush and his father, for-

mer President George H. W. Bush, huddled with the U.S. team ahead of the game

wish them luck. "What's James

pops?"

NBA scoring champion Le-Bron James quipped to Bush's ageing father.

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, the NBA's MVP, won a huge cheer star-dazzled from the home supporters but the

loudest shout from the raucous 16,000 crowd was for Ming, China's favourite athlete along with 110m

hurdler Liu Xiang. The U.S. team is still smarting from winning only bronze at Athens in 2004 and has nicknamed itself the "Redeem Team". They have joked they will be unable to return home without the gold.

The Americans will face a tougher test in their other Preliminary Group B matches against world champions Spain and a tough Greece side that stunned them in the world semifinals in 2006. REUTERS

The U.S. Liaison Committee on Medical Education has awarded the University of Alberta's Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry full accreditation. METRO NEWS SERVICES 11



#### Learned soldiers

The education level among Canadian Forces members is on the rise, according to a recent Statistics Canada report. Between 1988 and 2002, post-secondary graduation among personnel grew 48 per cent.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Hop, skip and a jump to flip, soar and a leap



ver wonder what those lithe gymnasts romping across the mat in China this week will do when they grow up? You can't vault competitively forever.

But you can flip, soar, leap and balance for pay audiences, at least into your late thirties.

That's what Montrealler

"If my body hurts ... then I don't want to do this. (But) right now, it's the greatest job on earth." Stacy Clark

Stacy Clark, 38, does. She started gymnastics at age six and competed at the national level until a back injury made her quit in her mid-teens. "It was hugely disappointing. When you do a sport like that, which takes up so much of your time, it really defines you.' She then had a "normal" life and went to Ryerson for media arts and got a job in advertising in Toronto.

She was 26 when she saw an outdoor flying trapeze rig and people doing aerial

"Wow, I really have to try that," she said to herself. So she signed up for a circus class at Harbourfront Centre and took to it immediately. Eventually, she was taking classes four nights a week.

She met professional dancer Robin Szuch and the

two worked well together. Realizing no one in Canada was doing circus work as street performers, they created High Strung Aerial Dance in 2000. They had a portable 20-foot-high trapeze made and landed their first gig within a few months

Weekends were soon filled with outdoor performances in summer and corporate gigs in winter. Clark kept working, but her boss gave her the summer of 2003 off to perform. She quit the following spring when the company was offered, in quick succession, work on a TV show, a trip to Japan and a job with the Canadian

Opera Company.

High Strung's street show combines theatre, comedy, acrobatics and aerial stunts. Clark wears a bun and plays the "straight" character while Szuch wears pigtails and is a total goof.

While maybe not as gruelling as competitive athletics, this is a physical job that Clark knows she can't do forever. She recently moved back to Montreal to take a job with Cirque du Soleil as a talent scout.

Her employer, of course, lets her take time off for performances. "If my body hurts ... then I don't want to do this. (But) right now, it's the greatest job on

The **Lowdown** 

Job title: Aerialist Salary: "I make as much as I did as an account director at an advertising agency." **Education:** While Clark went the recreational training route, there are accredited circus schools across the country

Best part of the job: "Keeping fit is a perk, but the best part is that I love it." Worst part of the job: "We don't have a crew, so we have to do everything our-

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

## Homework help makes a difference

A new school year is fast approaching and, once again, homework will become a nightly activity.

However, according to a recent survey conducted by Ipsos-Reid for Kumon Math and Reading Centres, if parents take the time now to teach their child to proactively ask for homework support, it can help them improve academic performance and enjoy a more rewarding homework experience.

According to responses from more than 1,200 Canadian parents, more than half of the children who actively engage their parents in homework support perform at an average to above average level at school.

Also, children who engage their parents in the homework process enjoy more dynamic support. From monitoring homework progress (75 per cent) to discussing the assignment (75 per cent), these children are turning a once tedious and stressful task into an interactive, two-way dialogue about learning, creating a more rewarding and enriching homework

experience. "Students who ask for homework assistance demonstrate ownership of their work, and an interest in succeeding," says Dr. Donna McGhie-Richmond, education specialist for Kumon Math and Reading



homework can boost their academic performance.

Centres. "The converse is also true. Children who are struggling or feel that they aren't succeeding may stop trying altogether. Successful homework completion will help a child do better in school, and can instill greater confidence and promote good, independent study habits."

Parents can help by demonstrating an interest in their child's homework, and offering support, not by completing assignment for their child, he added. assignments.



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Brad Pitt has joined the cast of Quentin Tarantino's next film Inglorious Bastards. The actor is expected to play Lieutenant Aldo Raine, the head of the Jewish resistance in the World War II film, according to trade papers. BBC NEWS ONLINE

# Singer Taylor Swift, left, announced onstage at a concert in the flood-beleaguered town of Cedar Rapids, lowa, that she's donating \$100,000 US to the local Red Cross.

#### Helping out

MARITIME TALES Musician David Stone will launch his new CD, Tales Of The Shipwreck Shore at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic tomorrow at 7 p.m. The album is a collection of songs inspired by local nautical stories. The event is free, and copies of the CD will be avail-

LET THERE BE LIGHT The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society will give a presentation on the Sambro Island Lighthouse, the oldest in North America, on Wednesday at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The lighthouse is celebration its 250th anniversary this year.

METRO HALIFAX

#### **Box office**

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

The Dark Knight: \$26 million US

Pineapple Express: \$22.4 million

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor: \$16.1 million

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 \$10.8 million

58.9 million Step Brothers:

Mamma Mia!: 58.1 million

Journey to the Center of the Earth: \$4.9

8 Harros Hancock:

9 Swing Vote: \$3.1 million

10 WALL-E: \$3.0 million

REUTERS

# Finding who's got talent

**DEAN LISK** 

#### This year's busker festival is out to prove that the Maritimes has talent.

Part of the 11-day event on the waterfront is a contest to search for some of the unique, strange and plain old fun that lies within the local population

'We are going back to our grassroots of support-ing local talent," festival director Billy Comer said about the Maritimers Got Talent competition.

"When this festival was first made it was a local talent competition to promote the arts in Halifax," he added.

"This year we looked for DVDs, for promos, and got around 50 DVDs and cut it down to five."

Among those competing in the inaugural talent search is fire artist Marissa Gough - called a human who has appeared with Atlantic Cirque, and street magician Greg Ferguson.

Comedy will be provided by Canadian Idol cast-offs Luke and Jock, whose song, I Was Turned Down By Canadian Idol, was featured during this season of the TV program. There will also be The REC'n Crew, which is part of Nova Scotia-based hip hop group Kola Corp., and pogo stick artist Daniel Mahoney. The Truro-based artist among the acts featured at this year's Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo.

"It's going to be exciting to see, said Comer, who adds the public can vote for the act they like most. The winner will receive the opportunity to perform in next year's busker festival.

people come 'When down and see there is this contest, we think it will quadruple next year with requests to be part of it and we are going to have a bigger mix of everything.

#### Be there

• The Maritimers Got Talent competition runs daily at the WestJet Fun 'N' Festival Zone next to Summit Place on the Halifax Waterfront. Visit buskers.ca for more.



Marissa Gough, referred to as a human candle, is among the acts competing in the Maritimers Got Talent competition.

Comedian and actor Bernie Mac, who starred in one of U.S. TV's few black sitcoms and appeared in the Ocean's 11 movies, died in Chicago Saturday after a bout with pneumonia. He was 50

Publicist Danica Smith confirmed the death in a statement but gave no fur-ther details. "We ask that his family's privacy continues to be respected," she said. Reactions poured in from Hollywood, which was taken by surprise because two days ago, Smith



Mac in 2007

"The world just got a little less funny. He will be dearly missed," said George Clooney, who starred with Mac in the Ocean's trilogy of hit box office films.

"respond-

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Mac was hospitalized in Chicago Aug. 1, and Smith

said then his illness was unrelated to a chronic tissue inflammation called sarcoidosis, which had been in remission since Along with the Ocean's capers, he appeared in movies such as comedy Guess Who and 3000. He recently worked on a new TV show Starting Under and an upcoming film Soul Men. With his beefy frame and bulging eyes, Mac cut an imposing figure. His scathing comedic observations were inspired by his

impoverished childhood in Chicago and honed by years on the stand-up circuit.

Mac achieved national prominence after joining the Kings of Comedy standup tour in 1997 with Steve Harvey, D.L. Hughley and Cedric the Entertainer. Tapping into an under-served market of middle-class blacks, the dapper quartet sold out arenas across the country during their annu-

In 2000, director Spike Lee shot a hugely profitable documentary about the tour. The following year, The Bernie Mac Show debuted on Fox, drawing from Mac's personal life. He played a married standup comic reluctantly thrust into parenthood when he takes custody of his sister's three children after she enters rehab.

"Losing him is like losing 12 people because he absolutely filled up any room he was in. I'm gonna miss the Mac Man," said comic actor Chris Rock in a story at E! Online. REUTERS

#### Dartmouth North Has Talent

Open to all residents in Dartmouth North!

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Info: Julie at 405.2426 | Sponsored by: TNT Fitness, Z103.5, Award East Squirrel Trophies and supported by United Way

#### **Entertainment** in brief

HAYES DEAD Oscar-winning soul singer Isaac Hayes died in Memphis yesterday, Reuters reports. He was 65. His friend and former manage er, Onzie Horne, said he had spoken to Hayes' wife, who confirmed that Hayes was found unconscious at his home, and rushed to a local

hospital where he was pronounced dead. The deep-voiced performer reached his commercial peak in 1972 when he won an Academy Award for his No. 1 hit Theme from Shaft. In his later years, Hayes reached a new audience by supplying the voice for Chef,

the libidinous sage on the cartoon series South Park.

MOVIE TO BOOK Madonna's documentary I Am Because We Are is to be turned into a photo book, imdb.com reports. The superstar wrote, produced and narrated the film about the plight of Malawian people

after travelling to the country where she adopted a toddler in 2006. The project is set to receive an accompanying tome, filled with images by Kristen Ashburn, excerpts from interviews with Malawian children, and a foreword penned by Madonna herself.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



# Lure of The Hills too much for many

#### STOCKHOLM SYNDROME:

Given a choice of watching my own death, in slow motion, set to a soundtrack of emo bands or an episode of The Hills, I'd choose the former without a moment's hesitation.

Still, the mere existence of MTV's hot hit "reality" show fascinates me to no - but not enough to actually contemplate

watching the thing.
My suspicion is that, for TV critics and

**IntelleVision** 

**McGinnis** 

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Rick

other people somehow concerned with the viability of the meďium, knowing that The Hills is out there is

like searching out the highest hilltop to watch the planet-killing asteroid arc across the sky on its way to ending all life on earth; you know it's out there, and that nothing will ever be the same again, but there's nothing you can do to stop it, so you'd might as well enjoy the brilliant, fiery, jagged scar as it's cutting through the atmos-

Time magazine's James Poniewozik has it bad for The Hills, as he confessed in paean to the show published last week

"Yes. The Hills is fake." he admits right off the top. "Fake in the sense that producers and participants acknowledge reshooting scenes and doing multiple takes. Fake in the sense that MTV's beautiful 'stars' are famous for little more than being on The Hills.

"And fake in that it's proof that a beautiful shot and a well-chosen sound track can imitate emotion in even the most banal scene. On second

thought, though, Poniewozik prefers the word "artifice" to "fake," and his enthusiasm for the show is hardly deterred by words like "shallow" either.

"It all sounds shallow, and, O.K., it is," he practically swoons. "The surfaces are precisely what make The Hills entrancing: it is possibly the best-looking series



James Poniewozik waxes poetic about The Hills in Time magazine. "It doesn't just look better than life. It looks better than TV." he writes

on television. It doesn't just look better than life. It looks better than TV. Where most reality shows use garish close-ups to show hot emotions, The Hills uses middleand long-range shots in wide-screen, giving it a cooler feel and framing the subjects like art photography. It's full of liquid L.A. sun, in love with the way light plays on surfaces — car bodies. plate glass, glossed lips."

Poniewozik has obviously

penetrated much closer to the heart of The Hills' appeal — an appeal that's obviously there, though I've been utterly unable to divine its precise nature, or access any part of myself, past or present, that might have responded to The Hill's very circumscribed but exhaustively chronicled slice of life. "It's life, if you were young, lucky and beautiful and had your own cinematographer and sound-track curator,'

9:00

Poniewozik insists.

"If this is fake, maybe reality is overrated."

More to the point, it's hard to imagine that other networks aren't eager to learn the lesson being taught by The Hills' success, which is that if this is reality TV, then maybe fake TV is overrated.

> Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

> > 10:30

#### **Seacrest joins** Clark as co-host

NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW Ryan Seacrest has been named permanent co-host of ABC's Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve, three years after the ubiquitous broadcaster stepped into the breach when Clark suffered a stroke. The annual fixture has been renamed Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest. Clark, 78, will continue as co-host. Seacrest also hosts American Idol and a morning radio show in Los Angeles.

#### Iron Man out on DVD Sept. 30

**MOVIES** The superhero smash Iron Man will be released Sept. 30 on DVD and Blu-ray Disc, distributor Paramount Pictures said Friday. With North American sales of \$316 million, the Robert Downey Jr. movie is the second-biggest movie of the year, behind The Dark Knight. Paramount is releasing Iron Man as a two-disc "Ultimate Edition" on DVD and Blu-ray. Each includes a making-of documentary and a feature on the origins of the Marvel superĥero. REUTERS

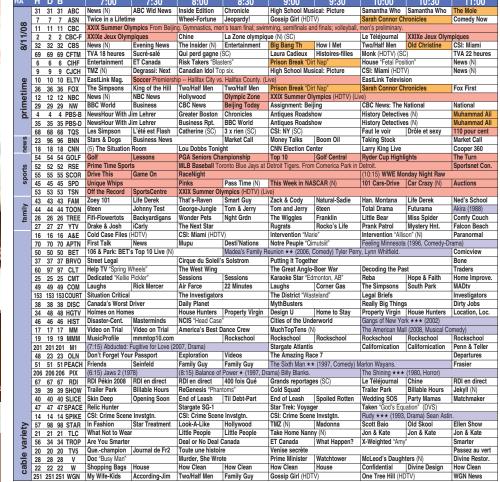
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### critics'corner-

So who is the Mole? We'll find so who is the Mole? We'll find out tonight, along with learning which remaining contestant takes home the big money for being the most successful at figuring out who's been sabotaging the group's missions. Did you guess the Mole's identity ahead of time? See if your suspicions were right or wrong. Jo Kelley hosts the season finale. 11 PM on ABC



XXIX Summer Olympics
A developing story line to watch
all this week is the progress of
2004 gold-medal gymnast Kyle
Shewlelt, who competes today Shewfelt, who competes today in the men's team final. The 26-year-old Calgary native is coming back from two broken legs and ligament damage he suffered while training for the world championships last summer. He's considered a long shot, but just the fact that he's made it to Beijing is a victory in itself. 7 PM on CBC

Putting It Together
Best known for her comedic
talent, Carol Burnett also has
one heck of a strong, clear singing voice. In this special, she
and other warblers — including
Tony winner George Hearn and
"Torchwood" hottle John Barrowman, and thorther the colobrate man — get together to celebrate the music of Stephen Sondheim. 9 PM on BRAVO



Rumours that actress Angie Harmon is pregnant with baby No. 3 are not true, her husband, former NFL star Jason Sehorn has said. usmagazine.com

### **Celebrity Buzz**

# **Kate will** talk about ex-husband

though Kate Hudson has indicated she likes to keep her private life private, she admitted she finds it tough stay tightlipped, msnbc.com reports.

"It's so hard for me because I'm so open - to hold back," the actress told W magazine. "I could really just go on forever about

this stuff." Hudson never publicly acknowledged recent romance subseand quent breakup with France champ Lance Armstrong. In fact, there's only one former flame she's willing to open up about. and that's her ex-husband, Black Crowes front man Chris Robinson.

'We can talk about Chris till the dogs come home," Hudson said. "I married Chris, I had a

baby with Chris, Chris will be in my life for the rest of my life. But everything else I've learned that things are better left private until you're actually plan-ning the wedding.



## Anne pans nips, tucks

**PEOPLE** Anne Hathaway has taken aim at actors who alter their faces with plastic surgery. insisting film stars need flaws to express emotion, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress once felt so insecure about her looks, she reportedly considered having a nose job.

But 25-year-old, now the face of beauty giant Lancome, is happy with her imperfections because they lend her face

character.

"I wanted a nose job, but now, my nose is what lets me change my face a lot and I can be glamorous as Agent 99 (in Get Smart), then look rough as a drug addict for (director) Ionathan Demme (in the forthcoming movie Rachel Getting Married)," Hath-

> away said. "Your face needs to have character if you're an actor, otherwise you're just a face," she

> > METRO NEWS SERVICES

added.

## celebrity brief

#### **Ex-Idol hopeful** welcomes son

BABY NEWS Former American Idol contestant Clay Aiken and music producer Jaymes Foster welcomed a baby boy Friday, the singer said in a statement on his website.

Parker Foster Aiken was born at a North Carolina hospital. In May, it was confirmed that Foster, 50, became pregnant via in vitro fertilization. People.com reports.

Though they are not romantically linked, Foste and Aiken plan to raise

gether. NEWS SERVICES

# the child to-

#### "This makes no sense at all..."

#### by Joe O'Neill

lay Aiken is a father, and claims on his website that the baby was delivered at 8:08 a.m. on 08/08/08. That's not the least bit creepy, Clay. No word on how close they came to naming the baby "Beijing Olympics Aiken."

Anne Hathaway's sentiments about avoiding plastic surgery are admirable, but they show that our Anne hasn't been following the awards shows lately. In 2003, the Oscars handed the statuette to the fakenose sporting Nicole **Kidman** for playing Virginia Woolf in The Hours. The following year, both Renée Zellweger and Charlize Theron took home statuettes for using dirt, makeup and prosthetics to appear surprisingly unattractive in movie

The lesson is obvious. Do whatever it takes to make yourself as purty as possible in real life, then take a part as an ugly duckling novelist, serial killer, or scrappy farmhand, and it's Oscar time, baby!

You have to admit, Paris Hilton is breaking new ground. She's usually in the news for opening something quite different than a nightclub. As for the name, I'm afraid she's going to be very disappointed, because even though I failed out of law school, I'm fairly certain that the makers of Valtrex won't let her have that name for her

NEWSDESK @METRONEWS CA

#### celebrity brief

#### Jewel says 'I do' to rodeo champ

RELATIONSHIPS Singer-songwriter Jewel and her boyfriend, rodeo champion Ty Murray, eloped to the Bahamas and exchanged vows in a private ceremony Thursday night, People.com reports her rep as having said.

The pair, who never announced an engagement, have been together for 10 vears and share a ranch in Stephenville Tex



## Paris plans Vegas club

PEOPLE Paris Hilton wants a Las Vegas hotspot to call her own, intouchweekly.com

reports.
"I'm in talks right now," the hotel heiress said. "I think I found a really good space.

Hilton should have no trouble getting people to line up.

"The Vegas crowds love ner," says a Las Vegas nightlife insider. "It's a mob scene every time she arrives. And while Hilton is

coy about the details, she already has a name. "But I can't tell anyone," she says. "It's not trademarked yet!'

METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Penelope lauds private life

Cruz's personal life is "the best" it has ever been. femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Cruz is dating actor Javier Bardem and is delighted with the way her one-year relationship is going.

"I have to tell you, my private life is at its best," she said.

However, when

PEOPLE Actress Penelope pressed on the subject, Cruz refused to elabo-

"If you want to know more about him, then please ask him," she said. "I am not going to say any more ... I find being in the spotlight for my personal life really uncomfortable '

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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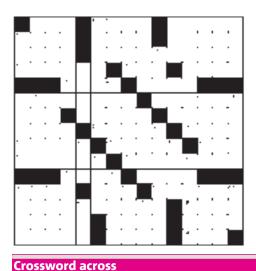
THE HAVERHILL INSTITUTE OF STAGING & DESIGN

#### Blackwell wakes from coma

Hollywood fashion critic Mr. Blackwell has regained consciousness after collapsing at his Los Angeles home last week, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Publicist Harlan Boll has reportedly confirmed the 86-year-old is now conscious after waking from a coma on Thursday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

#### **Take Five**

**AVATAR VENUS** 



#### **Crossword down**

- 1 Pita treat
- 2 Mini-guitars
- 4 Returned (2 wds.)

- 7 Cries
- 8 T'ai ch'uan
- 10 Autobahn vehicle
- 12 Just
- 13 Mahal 18 shui
- 20 Crazy
- 24 Different
- 26 Mouths

- 29 Forum speech

## 67 Prince Val's eldest

33 Tea variety

42 Celebrities

47 Cassette

wds.)

34 Courtroom word

40 John Wayne flick (2

45 Physics workplace

52 Castaway's refuge

60 Herr von Bismarck

64 Feminine principle 66 Ticked off

50 Precious thing

54 Marine birds

56 Hits, slangily

57 Q.E.D. part 58 Cato's year

62 Tiny insect

63 Police bust

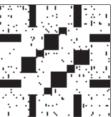
37 Age, as cheese

#### 30 Cut, as ties 32 Know-how

- 3 In an orderly manner
- 5 Weeks per annum?
- 6 Game plan
- 9 Clothing-label caveat
- 11 Cherry leftover

- 27 Quits marching
- 28 Maureen or Scarlett

#### previous day's answer



#### Horoscopes

#### ARIES

#### $(\Upsilon)$ MARCH 21-APRIL 20 Wait until tomorrow to make a significant decision. A meeting

will please you and your friend Don't dawdle on the way

#### **TAURUS**

#### APRIL 21-MAY 21

There'll be a delay in getting results. Come up with a better plan while in transit. Regret is brought about by a friend's social blunder

#### **GEMINI**

MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't be too embarrassed when you're conspicuous. Stay focused on what needs to be done. Negotiate over a serious concern.

(<u>s</u>

#### CANCER

#### JUNE 22-JULY 22

This could be a roller-coaster type of a day. Your convictions can determine events. Intervention will be necessary in legal matters.

#### LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

#### A stubborn person decides that

it's time to quibble. Your personal resources will increase. You may be accused of being

#### VIRGO

#### AUG 24-SEPT 22

A couple will decide to tie the knot. Your suggestion is being considered by the boss. A trusted person has a trick up his

#### LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23
You'll learn to tune into a loved one. Today's debate will intrude on your quiet time. Avoid obsessing over trivial mistakes.

#### **SCORPIO**

#### OCT 24- NOV 22

# Nostalgia for a lost love leads to deep thoughts. A woman is gone with the wind. Don't challenge a cynical person.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

## NOV 23- DEC 21 A phone call brings very

strange news. Be fearless in ap proaching the unknown. unique romantic chance will

#### CAPRICORN

#### **DEC 22-JAN 20**

You can find the obvious solution to a problem. Watch when others behave differently. Do something good for a proud person.

#### **AQUARIUS**

JAN 21-FEB 18
Remember to rest up after a hard job. Your body knows best. You'll fling your disbelief out the window before noon.

#### PISCES

FIBE 19-MAR 20
A wiggling idealist fails to win attention. A tolerant woman can see through other people. Comments are made about never finding love.

#### Sudoku

7	4			9		1		8
		6						3
8					3		9	
		2	9		1			
3				8				9
			6		7	5		
	3		2					7
2						3		
1		7		6			5	4
	3	3	8	6 8 9 9 3 9 6 6 9 2 9 2 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	6 8 9 9 9 3 8 6 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	6	8       6       3         2       9       1         3       8         6       7       5         3       2       3         3       2       3         3       3       3         3       3       3         3       3       3         4       3       3	8       6       3       9         2       9       1       9         3       8       6       7       5         3       2       3       3         3       2       3       3         3       3       3       3

#### 17-21..... Smart 21-25..... Not bad

25+ . . . . . Keep practising more games metronews.ca

#### 4 Smooth-talking

- 1 Six-shooter
- 8 Abyss
- 13 Little kid 14 Verdi heroine
- 15 couture
- 16 District
- 17 Camera part
- 19 Bump against
- 21 Dark brew
- 22 Pocket change 23 Timber wolf
- 25 Winter precip
- 27 Good golly! (2 wds.) 31 Comprehends
  - 35 So! 36 Earth color
  - 38 Lopsided
  - 39 Like many a train
  - 41 Costner or Spacey
  - 43 Go backpacking
  - 44 Quavering sound
  - 46 Transplant
  - 48 Hawaii's Mauna -49 Open shoe 51 Store owner
- 53 Theater award 55 Has a snooze
- 56 Hibernating animal
- 59 Move to and -
- 61 Steeple
- 65 Pretty shrub
- 68 Tien Shan mountains
- 69 Chinese mammal
- 70 Raison d' 71 Fritz's refusal
- 72 Bore
- 73 Heirs, often 74 Male parent



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#### This day in history

AUG. 11, 1804: Francis II assumed title of first Emperor of Aus-

AUG. 11, 1918: World War I - Battle of Amiens ends

AUG. 11, 1929: Babe Ruth becomes the first baseball player to hit 500 home runs in his career with a home run at League Park in Cleveland, Ohio.

AUG. 11, 1934: Federal prison opened at Alcatraz Island.

AUG. 11, 1952: Hussein proclaimed king of Jordan. AUG. 11, 1972: Vietnam War: The last United States ground

combat unit depart South Vietnam. AUG. 11, 1999: The exceptional Salt Lake City Tornado tears through the downtown district of the city, killing one.

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**HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:** The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row. each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

#### previous day's answer

9	4	6	3	1	5	2	7	8
7	8	5	6	4	2	1	3	9
1	3	2	7	8	9	5	6	4
2	6	3	1	7	8	9	4	5
5	7	8	9	6	4	3	2	1
4	9	1	5	2	3	6	8	7
6	1	4	2	5	7	8	9	3
3	5	7	8	9	6	4	1	2
8	2	9	4	3	1	7	5	6

Under 13. . . . . Genius 13-17 . . . . . Scholar

#### Temperature Normals High: 22.9° Low: 15.1°

Records High: 28.9°/1976 Low: 11.1°/1968

Sunrise: 6:12 a.m. Sunset: 8:25 p.m. Moonset: 12:39 a.m. Moonrise: 5:23 p.m.





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### Halifax weather Afternoon



22°

**Tonight** 



Showers. 15°





Rain. 20°/16





21°/14°



**Partly** cloudy.



22° / 13° ©The Weather Network 2008

